

Triumph



Special Olympics New York • SEPTEMBER 2001

The Tragedies of 9-11 Will Test the Human Spirit

Some thoughts from Special Olympics New York.

We search for adjectives to describe the horror and utter senselessness of the tragedies that occurred at the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, yet all descriptors seem inadequate. We need new words to express such immense sorrow and incredulity.

All across the country, people are mourning the terrorism, including those of us at Special Olympics New York. While the damage has not been fully calculated, both in human loss and losses that are less significant, such as property, we know that we must persevere.

Right now, we join the nation and the world as it prays and hopes for the victims and their families. We find our emotions

shifting from disbelief and sadness to acceptance and anger.

From the moment those jets struck the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, so many things became so unimportant. Life's nuisances became so insignificant, as America realized it had much more pressing matters.

But certain scenes give us hope: like the rescue workers who

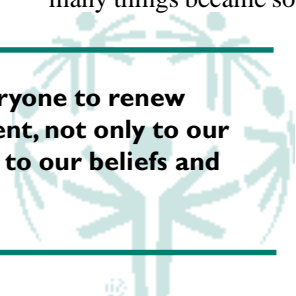
sacrificed their lives to save another, the volunteers who streamed into the city to help and the fund-raising drives taking place all over the world.

Then, six days after the attack, Wall Street workers returned – marching into the financial district with briefcases in one hand and American flags in the other. Their

arrival was another signal to the country that we are going to survive this mess – emotionally, economically and in every other way – and defeat terrorism. It also was a signal for the rest of us that we, too, can go back to work.

Special Olympics was founded on the principles that people can – and will – persevere in the face of challenge, no matter how insurmountable. Our intention here at Special Olympics New York is to continue to serve our “family.” We implore everyone to renew their commitment, not only to our mission but also to our beliefs and our way of life. While the World Trade Center and Pentagon tragedies present challenges never before faced in this country, we know that our nation's impending crusade against terrorists – and those who provide them sanctuary – is just. We know that life will return to normal, even though we will need a new definition of the word normal. ■

We implore everyone to renew their commitment, not only to our mission but also to our beliefs and our way of life.



Reaching for the Top

Police Sergeant makes final preparations to climb Mt. Kilimanjaro.

A City of Poughkeepsie Police sergeant, has left for Mt. Kilimanjaro in an attempt to reach the peak to benefit Special Olympics.

Before she left, Sgt. Annmarie Spiciarich commented on the rigors of training for the climb.

“Asking for pledges is the easy part because I, and the people I speak to, understand that Special Olympics is such an important part of every community in this state,” she said.

The 41-year-old police veteran will battle hunger, thirst, fatigue, altitude sickness, searing heat and sub-freezing temperatures in order to reach the 19,340-foot summit.

Neal J. Johnson, president and CEO of Special Olympics New York, said, “We are honored to have Annmarie as a friend and benefactor. We thank her and wish her a successful journey and a safe trip home.” ■



Sgt. Spiciarich, left, and co-worker Gayle Wagner, at a booth promoting the climb at the Poughkeepsie Galleria. Spiciarich returns Oct. 9.

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A Message from the President

Neal J. Johnson is President & CEO of Special Olympics New York, Inc.



As you'll read on Page 5, a woman named Kathy Cleveland Bull will be the keynote speaker at our Fall Conference and Awards Banquet in November. Kathy is founder and president of a professional training and corporate development company. She is in great demand these days for her lectures on a book called "Who Moved My Cheese? An A-Mazing Way to Deal With Change in Your Work and in Your Life."

You may have heard of "Who Moved My Cheese," but its title likely confused you. It confused me until I learned that the story is actually a parable about change and the "cheese" is a metaphor used to describe the things we have and want in life, such as our careers, relationships, beliefs and goals.

This book has become so popular nationwide that its author, Dr. Spencer Johnson, has authorized a select few to speak about its message. Cleveland Bull is one of them.

When I began to compare this parable to the current state of Special Olympics New York, I was struck by the similarities. The book teaches us to think of change in a positive way and understand that it is a part of life and a part of business.

As the organization moves closer to regionalization, it will be important that everyone associated with the organization understand that "cheese" will be moved.

Change is necessary not only for success, but for survival. The book suggests we smell our "cheese" often so we know when it's getting old. Our "cheese" – or our program – is not as fresh as it should be. The book also states that movement in a new direction helps us find new "cheese". As we all move forward, the new "cheese" we find will hopefully be a renewed commitment to quality growth, more athletes and more committed volunteers.

But this conference will be much more comprehensive than "cheese" and change. It will be about renewing friendships, sharing ideas, having a great time and finding new and creative ways to raise funds and attract new supporters and sponsors. It will be about finding ways to draw new volunteers to the movement. Of course, the goal of anything we do will be to find ways to serve our existing athletes better and introduce more potential athletes to the Special Olympics movement.

We promise to make this a fun and memorable conference. So bring yourselves and your cameras. And (I can't believe I'm writing this) don't forget to say "Cheese." ■

2001 Calendar of Events

September

- 8 Sections 3 & 4 Equestrian, Skidmore College Stables, Saratoga Springs
- 8 Section 5 Softball, Bergman Park, Jamestown
- 15 Sections 3, 4 & 5 Soccer & Softball, Collins Park, Scotia
- 22 Fall Classic, Sections 1 & 2, Cantiague Park, Hicksville
- 21 Climb to Mt. Kilimanjaro to benefit the Law Enforcement Torch Run

October

- 5-7 2001 Fall Games, Saugerties
- 17 Real Estate & Construction Gala, Sheraton, New York City
- 20 Section 2 Bowling, Bowling Time Lanes, New Windsor
- 20 Section 3 Adult Bowling, (Age 22+) Pine Lanes, South Glens Falls
- 20 Section 4 Adult Bowling, (Age 22+) Oswego
- 28 Section 1 Bowling, Gil Hodges Lanes, Batavia

November

- 3-4 Bowling West, AMF Olympic Lanes, Rochester
- 9-11 Bowling Central, Utica
- 9-10 Bowling East (Age 22)
- 16-18 Fall Leadership Conference, Queensbury Hotel, Glens Falls



For more details please contact your Director of Field Services or the Special Olympics New York office.

Triumph

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Inspire Greatness

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Around the State

Area 2 – Nassau

Eighty athletes participated in the sixth annual Great Neck Special Olympics Basketball Tournament on June 10 at the Great Neck North High School.



Area 5 and 7, Orange and Dutchess Counties

The Inaugural Gold's Gym Golf Outing to benefit the athletes in Orange and Dutchess counties will take place at Mansion Ridge Golf Course in Monroe, Orange County, on Sept. 28.

Take a chance on winning a Harley Davidson from Moroney's Cycle Shop in New Windsor, a Chevrolet Cavalier from Jim Smith Chevrolet, or many other prizes through raffles and competitions throughout the day.

Mansion Ridge is a Jack Nicklaus-designed championship course. For more information, to register your foursome, or to sponsor the outing, call James Lagarde at 845-564-7500.

Area 12 – Oneida/Herkimer Counties

Fairway Farms in Westmoreland hosted the third annual Charity Horse Show on Saturday, Aug. 18. Proceeds benefited Special Olympics New York – Oneida/Herkimer Counties. In addition to the horse show, there were equestrian demonstrations by athletes, a silent auction, raffles, a vintage car show, dragsters, dirt stock cars, motorcycles and a chicken barbecue.

Area 35 – Staten Island

Staten Island hosted the seventh annual Hillside Invitational Swim Meet on July 14. More than 100 athletes participated, including delegations from Manhattan and New Jersey. "A few years ago, most of these athletes were struggling to get to the end of a 25-meter pool with a beginner's freestyle," said Joanne Certo, training coordinator. "Now they've progressed to the point where a few can skillfully manage a true medley, where they perform all four racing strokes." The Blessed Sacrament Cheerleaders cheered the athletes through all 14 events.

Sports Opportunities for the Disabled

Special Olympics New York is listed in a new publication by the New York City Sports Commission called "Exercise Your Ability: The Ultimate Guide to Sports and Recreation for People with Disabilities."

The book is the first guide of its kind to be published in New York City and was created "to provide people with disabilities the opportunity to participate in a wide range of sports in the city and around the nation," said Kenneth J. Podziba, commissioner of the sports commission.

The book contains well-researched information on more than 100 organizations that assist people with disabilities to experience fitness, and offers information on accessing services and sports opportunities. For a copy, call 212-788-8389.

Please call, fax or e-mail your Area information to Doreen Hand, 212-661-3963, Fax: 212-661-4658, dhand@nyso.org

A Street Named in Honor of Herb Rosenblatt

On Monday, July 16, the City of New York honored the late Herb Rosenblatt for his accomplishments with Special Olympics New York in the Bronx by naming a street after him in the Bronx.

The bill, renaming the portion of Waters Place between Eastchester Road and Westchester Avenue to Herb Rosenblatt Place, was signed by Mayor Rudolph Giuliani and was sponsored by Councilwoman Madeline Provenzano and Councilman Pedro G. Espada.

"He was a very important man who was responsible for bringing Special Olympics to the Bronx," said Provenzano. "He changed the life of the developmentally disabled from being just a spectator to becoming participants."

Rosenblatt, a special education teacher with the NYC Board of Education, started the first Special Olympics - Bronx Training Club at Lehman College 30 years ago. He also served on the Special Olympics New York Board of Directors.

Rosenblatt died in 1991 at age 43. "Herb was a great friend and mentor to



Herb Rosenblatt

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many athletes, volunteers and families," said Neal J. Johnson, president and chief executive officer of Special Olympics New York. "He dedicated his entire professional and personal adult life in service to the developmentally disabled. Naming a street in his honor is really a testament to his devotion to the athletes and to the entire Bronx community." ■

Area 9 Finds Creative Way to Pass the Time at Summer Games.

As if there weren't enough things to do at Summer Games, Area 9 found a way to pass the time by adding one more challenge to the 2001 Summer Games in Buffalo. They held their own "Survivor" game.

Coaches and athletes participated in a weekend-long series of contests that included scavenger hunts and quizzes. They also were challenged to wear their bandanas all weekend and seek autographs from Special Olympics staff members. The contest was

created by coaches Jen Whipple and Kim Lawrence. The honor as Survivor of the Weekend went to coach Lila MacPhail. ■



Area 9

Pellegrino's Ace Makes USA Today

Peter Pellegrino's popularity continues to rise following his spectacular performance – which included a hole-in-one at the Special Olympics National Invitational Golf Tournament in Port St. Lucie, Fla.

Pellegrino was featured in an Aug. 13 USA Today article, along with Chris Revay of Kentucky, who also scored an ace on the same par-3 as Pellegrino.

"We saw it go in right away," Pellegrino, 29, told the two million circulation publication. ■



Campers Overcome Obstacle Course for Special Olympics

Weeklong fund-raiser nets a whopping \$32,000.

Campers from Camp Hillard in Scarsdale, Westchester County, raced against the clock and through an obstacle course in a weeklong fund-raising event for Special Olympics New York last month.

“Special Olympics New York is very fortunate to benefit from the incredible generosity of the youngsters from Camp Hillard and their parents,” said Neal J. Johnson, president and chief executive officer, who accepted a check for more than \$32,000 at an Aug. 16 ceremony at the camp. “It is important and gratifying to

know that these youngsters recognize the important role that Special Olympics plays in the lives of our athletes, their families and the community.”

Each summer, Camp Hillard runs an athletic event in which 800 campers, ages 3 to 12, participate. The children collect pledges from their parents for completing the course. Past charitable beneficiaries include the

Leukemia Society for Children, the Starlight Foundation, Make-A-Wish Foundation, the Pediatric Cancer Foundation and the Fresh Air Fund.

All participating campers whose families donated at least \$35 received a thank you package that included a T-shirt, gift certificates from IMAX Movie Theaters, Applebee’s Neighborhood Grill & Bar, Carvel, NY Waterways and the

Children’s Museum for the Arts in SOHO, and souvenirs from the NHL, ESPN and the New York Rangers.

Camp Hillard was founded in 1929 by Morris and Hannah Libman as Westchester County’s first day camp. The camp is now in its 73rd year under the direction of third generation Libmans, Jon and Jim. ■



Some campers strike more whimsical poses as they present a ceremonial check to Neal J. Johnson.

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Neal J. Johnson leads campers in a cheer with help from a new buddy.

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Athletes Preparing for Fall Classic

The 2001 Fall Classic takes place Saturday, Sept. 22, at Cantiague Park in Hicksville, Long Island. More than 500 athletes and coaches from Sections 1 and 2 will take part in the Sectional Competition that features Soccer, Softball, Golf and Cross Country. This year’s event will also

feature a Bocce clinic.

“We’re looking forward to going back to Cantiague,” said Melissa Gross, director of program. “It’s a great facility and the community of Hicksville welcomes us back year after year.”

Members of the New York Power-the

local women’s professional soccer team will be on hand for Opening Ceremonies and to sign autographs for the athletes.

For more information on Fall Classic, call Gross at 212-661-3963. ■

GE Prize Patrol Visits Special Olympics

A team of volunteers from Schenectady-based General Electric distributed \$1.6 million in donations in one day in the Capital Region, stopping by the Special Olympics New York headquarters to present a check for \$2,500.

The visit was part of GE’s More Gifts,

More Givers program, where GE volunteers – known as the Gift Patrol – distribute donations as a way of recognizing charitable organizations for their work. The enthusiastic Gift Patrol also delivered cakes and balloons to nonprofits throughout the region.

“We would like to thank General Electric volunteers, employees and administration for thinking of Special Olympics,” said Alys Rickert, vice president, Finance and Administration. “In addition to their generous gift, it really brightens our day when the Gift Patrol visits.” ■



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Jamie Watson of Suffolk County waits for a serve during the tennis clinic on a court outside Arthur Ashe Stadium.

Arthur Ashe Day

Athletes from Suffolk County and The Bronx participated in the sixth annual Arthur Ashe Kids' Day on Saturday, Aug. 25.

The day-long family event at the USTA National Tennis Center in Flushing Meadows-Corona Park offered interactive activities and games for children of all ages, including a clinic featuring Michael

Chang and Todd Martin. Musical acts Lil' Bow Wow and O-Town headlined the stadium show and Venus and Serena Williams displayed their talents in an exhibition doubles match.

Arthur Ashe Kids' Day benefits the USA Tennis National Junior Tennis League, the nation's premier inner-city youth tennis program, co-founded



by Arthur Ashe. ■

Noted Trainer and Motivator to Address Fall Conference

Kathy Cleveland Bull is an expert on adjusting to change.

Kathy Cleveland Bull, a highly sought-after professional speaker, trainer and consultant, will deliver the keynote address at the Special Olympics New York 2001 Fall Conference and Awards Banquet in Glens Falls.

Cleveland Bull will address the subject of change and the opportunities change presents to individuals and organizations. Her seminar is built around the internationally best selling business book, "Who Moved My Cheese? An A-Mazing Way to Deal with Change in Your Work and in Your Life," by Dr. Spencer Johnson.

Cleveland Bull worked with Dr. Johnson to develop training materials based on the principles in the book. She has conducted more than 50 seminars and keynote addresses on the topic, and is one of a handful of people certified to speak on the principles detailed in the book. "Who Moved My Cheese?" has been near or at the top of the Amazon.com and *The New York Times* lists of best sellers.

The Fall Conference and Awards Banquet will be held Nov. 16 to 18 at the Queensbury Hotel in Glens Falls. Cleveland

Bull's address is 1 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 17. The conference will offer sessions on

conducting successful competitions, hosting first-rate fund-raisers, promoting your athletes and your program, and managing your program within the Special Olympics guidelines.

Cleveland Bull's address comes at a time when Special Olympics volunteers and staff are attempting to devise a plan to move toward a regional configuration.

"Special Olympics New York is about to undergo the most comprehensive period of change in our history as we prepare to create regional programs," said Neal J. Johnson, president and chief executive officer of Special Olympics New York. "The book, and Ms.

Cleveland Bull's address, will provide a fresh perspective on why change is necessary and healthy for all businesses."

In "Who Moved My Cheese?," the word cheese is used as a metaphor for what

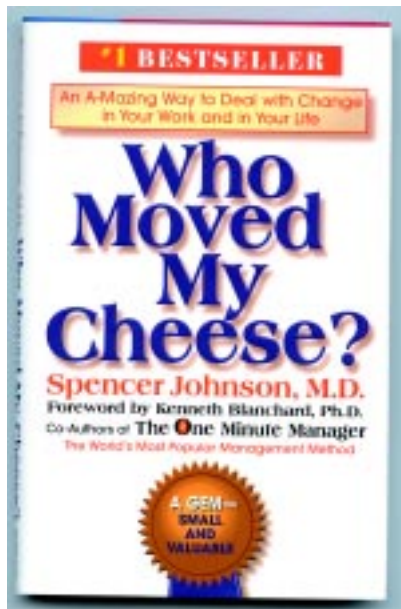


Photo provided

Kathy Cleveland Bull

you have in life – a job, a relationship, a home, health or money. The maze is where you look for what you want within your organization, your family or your community.

In the story, four characters are faced with unexpected change, one of whom deals with it through trial and error. The lesson centers on effectively dealing with change so that one can limit stress and achieve success in work and life. ■

You have until Oct. 12 to sign up for the 2001 Fall Conference and Awards Banquet. Please call Walter Kopczuk at 800-836-6976, or visit www.specialolympicsnewyork.org for details.

Softballers are Pitchmen – and Women – for Special Olympics

Hudson Valley athletes participate in news conference announcing Fall Games.

Athletes from Ulster and Dutchess counties displayed their softball skill for the public at a news conference announcing that the Fall Games are returning to Saugerties.

Teams from Ulster and Dutchess counties held a demonstration game at Cantine-Veterans Memorial Complex in the Town of Saugerties, which is the host venue for the 2001 and 2002 Fall Games.

Nearly 1,200 athletes and coaches are expected to participate in Cross-Country, Cycling, Equestrian, Golf, Soccer and Softball Oct. 5 to 7. Opening Ceremonies will be 8 p.m., Oct. 5. Competitions are all day Saturday, Oct. 6, followed by Closing Ceremonies and the Victory Dance beginning at 8 p.m.

Saugerties has hosted the Fall Games in 1989, 1990, 1993, and 1994. Cantine will host Cross-Country, Cycling, Soccer and Softball, while Equestrian will be held at Beaverkill Farms in Saugerties. Golf will take place at Rip Van Winkle and Thunderheart golf courses.

“It is a real pleasure to bring the Fall Games back to Saugerties,” Neal J. Johnson, president and chief executive officer of Special Olympics New York, said to the media and invited guests. “The support from the community has been fantastic, and the venues are among the best in the state.”

Jim and Barbara Griffis of Saugerties are serving as co-chairs of the volunteer Local Organizing Committee. Mayor Robert Yerick represented the bordering Village of Saugerties and Area 6 athlete Mitchell Robbins led a group of 35 athletes in the Athletes’ Oath.

The Fall Games is one of three statewide competitions held each year in New York and one of more than 400 competitions held across the state annually at either the local or sectional level.

For more information, or to volunteer, call 800-836-6976. ■



Mitchell Robbins, left, addressed the gathering. Neal J. Johnson greets him.



The Ulster County Sluggers, led by Gina Wayman, center, get pumped up before their demonstration game.

A Par-fect Day

Prestigious Oak Hill proves ideal setting for annual golf outing.

More than 100 golfers from around the country enjoyed a sun-filled day of golf in August at the famed Oak Hill Country Club in Rochester.

The third annual outing to benefit Special Olympics New York was sponsored by ING Aetna Financial Services and New York State United Teachers. Highlights

included a demonstration by athletes from Area 20 (Monroe County) and a clinic by PGA golf professional Craig Harmon.

Area 20 athletes participating in the clinic included Tom Baumbarger, Ramon Becker, Peter Connorton, Brian Dioguardi, Greg Herman, Andrea Jenkins and David Russell. They are coached by Tim Baird, who also attended.

Other athletes in attendance were Ryan Kelly and David Drojak from Area 20, and Kassy Glover and Raymel Temaungil from Area 16 (Onondaga County).

Temaungil, a Sargent Shriver Global Messenger, addressed the players at dinner, receiving a rousing ovation for her words of thanks.

“We are grateful for the support of Oak Hill,



Tom Baumbarger watches his tee shot sail to the green.

ING Aetna Financial Services and the New York State United Teachers,” said Neal J. Johnson, president and chief executive officer of Special Olympics New York. “This was another great event for our sponsors, supporters and, of course, our athletes.” ■



Athletes from Area 20 (Monroe County) greet guests of Oak Hill.

In the Next Issue

■ Highlights from the Fall Games

■ Scenes from Mt. Kilimanjaro



State Headquarters Staff Changes

- Christina Warzek has joined the Special Olympics New York staff as the bookkeeper in the Finance Department.
- Erin Griffiths was promoted from sectional sports director to director of field services, Section 4.
- Leaving Special Olympics in the past month were Audra Herman, vice president, Development; Addy Waldie, associate director, Development; and Suzanne Ellsworth, director of volunteer management. ■

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- Message from the President
- Calendar of Events
- Special Olympics New York News
- Areas News Briefs
- Upcoming Competition and Fund-raisers
- And More

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Mission: To provide year-round sports training and athletic competition in a variety of Olympic-style sports for children and adults with mental retardation, giving them continuing opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, experience joy and participate in the sharing of gifts, skills and friendship with their families, other Special Olympics athletes and the community.